

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 27 and 28 with the following paragraph:

Neuroblastoma cell line NG108-15 (*Nature* (1998) 336:p185) were seeded at a density of 3×10^4 cells/ml in 96 well microtitre plates coated with poly-D-lysine. Plates were grown for 3 days at 37°C in a CO₂ incubator (5% CO₂ 95% air). MnSOD or leader-MnSOD conjugates were prepared with purified heavy chain of botulinum neurotoxin serotype A (BoNT/A HC) as described. The concentration of SOD was estimated and the conjugate diluted to give the specified amount of conjugate in a total volume of 200µl serum free medium. Conjugate was added to wells in the presence or absence of 56mM KCl, 2mM CaCl₂. The cells were incubated with conjugate for 1 hour. The conjugate was replaced with either serum free medium or serum free medium containing 50µM duroquinone and incubated at 37°C for 4 hours in the CO₂ incubator to induce oxidative stress. The media was removed after 4 hours and replaced with the dye 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) at a final concentration of 0.25mg/ml in serum free medium and incubated for 2 hours (according to the method of Mattson, MP, *et al.* (1995) *Methods in Cell Biology* 46:187-216). The conversion of MTT to formazan dye crystals has been shown to be related to mitochondrial respiratory chain activity (Musser, DA, and Oseroff, AR (1994) *Journal of Immunology Photochem. Photobiol.* 59:621-626). MTT was removed and crystals solubilised with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Absorbance at 570nm was measured using a Labsystems Multiskan Plus MkII spectrophotometer and the results shown in Figure 5.